

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-02 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05
OES-07 DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EPG-02 FPC-01 H-01
INT-05 OMB-01 PM-04 STR-04 TRSE-00 /124 W
-----100855Z 014503 /15

R 081615Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4533
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EINV, YO, US
SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR SECOND YUGOSLAV NUCLEAR PLANT MOVES AHEAD

DEPT PASS EXIM BANK

REF: 75 ZAGREB A-083

1. PLANNING FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT APPEARS TO BE MOVING AHEAD WITH PROGRESS TOWARDS A SITE SELECTION. ZAGREB DAILY "VJESNIK" OF JUNE 8 REPORTS THAT MEMBERS OF CROATIAN ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HAVE AGREED THAT SECOND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OF 900 TO 1,000 MEGAWATS WILL BE BUILT ON ADRIATIC ISLAND OF VIR. THE VIR SITE WAS CHOSEN OVER ALTERNATIVE SITE THIRTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF ZAGREB. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, THE CHOICE OF VIR MUST NOW BE APPROVED BY SLOVENIAN POWER ASSOCIATION (WHICH WILL SHARE IN THE CONSTRUCTION), THE CROATIAN AND SLOVENE ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATIONS, AND THE CROATIAN AND SLOVENE GOVERNMENTS.

2. ASKED BY ECONOFF TO COMMENT ON PRESS REPORT, IVO BOZIN,
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DIRECTOR OF CROATIA'S INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY PLANNING SAID THAT CHOICE OF VIR WAS NOT DEFINITE AND THAT OTHER FACTORS WOULD INFLUENCE FINAL DECISION. BOZIN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT VIR SITE NOW IS CLEARLY FAVORED AND THAT HE FEELS IT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO SLOVENES. BOZIN CITED TWO ADVANTAGES OF VIR SITE: FIRST, AREA OF ADRIATIC COAST AROUND VIR IS ENERGY POOR AND, SECOND, CHOICE OF VIR, WITH AMPLE SEA WATER FOR COOLING, WOULD PERMIT

EVENTUAL INSTALLATION OF SECOND UNIT ON THE SAME SITE. BOZIN SAID THERE WAS NO TIMETABLE FOR BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION, BUT THAT PREPARATIONS COULD NOW BE SPEEDED UP. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT WOULD BE AN ENORMOUS INVESTMENT AND THAT EXPERIENCE OF KRSKO HAD TAUGHT THAT CAREFUL AND LENGTHY PREPARATIONS WERE NEEDED BEFORE PROCEEDING. IN CONCLUSION, BOZIN OBSERVED THAT IT WAS IRONIC THAT PEOPLE IN CROATIA WERE NOW BATTLING TO HAVE THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT LOCATED IN THEIR AREA. IN A FEW YEARS THEY WILL HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH THE WEST EUROPEANS AND NO ONE WILL WANT A PLANT NEAR THEM.

3. COMMENT: WITH KRSKO MOVING AHEAD AGAIN AND WITH CONTINUED COMMITMENT BY CROATIANS AND SLOVENES TO NUCLEAR POWER AS SOLUTION TO THEIR ENERGY PROBLEMS, THE WAY IS OPEN TO PROCEED WITH THE LONG DISCUSSED AND ALREADY AGREED UPON SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT (REFAIR). IN PREPARING FOR THE SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT, THE CROATIANS AND SLOVENES WILL BE CAUGHT BETWEEN THEIR DESIRE TO MOVE SLOWLY AND CAUTIONSLY ON SUCH AN EXPENSIVE PROJECT AND THE PRESSING NEED FOR NEW SOURCES OF POWER TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH. FOR THE MOMENT, THEN, PREPARATIONS ARE GOING FORWARD BUT ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION IS NOT LIKELY TO BEGIN BEFORE 1980 WHEN THE KRSKO PLANT IS OPERATIONAL. KAISER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, PROGRESS REPORTS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ZAGREB00502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770207-0509
Format: TEL
From: ZAGREB
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770676/aaaacoiv.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 543f1782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ZAGREB A-83
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2220672
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLANNING FOR SECOND YUGOSLAV NUCLEAR PLANT MOVES AHEAD DEPT PASS EXIM BANK
TAGS: ENRG, EINV, YO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/543f1782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009